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Lieutenant Governor Education and Training

District 65 Toastmasters:

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Well, I for one will be grateful to see this winter season fade to memory ... lamb-like or other wise. For some reason this winter seems to be the longest one yet. The snow, the cold, the snow and then some more snow. I'll be happy when Spring blows into the Empire District again. I'm getting tired of hiding inside, huddled to stay warm, or struggling to get around through all of this weather.

There have been several bright spots through these snowy months though. A lot of them have involved Toastmasters.

I had the opportunity to work with both the Central and Western Division Governors as they conducted their midyear Club Officer training. It was a great time for me, seeing longtime toastmaster friends like the Czarnecki's, Mark Hess, and Rich Franke from the Western Division and having the opportunity to make new friends as we welcomed the Club Officers from the 2 new HSBC into our Toastmaster community at the training session. The end of February concluded the official midyear training period and the Division Governors are compiling their lists of trained officers to be submitted to Toastmasters International. International will post the results on the website shortly. It'll be interesting to see which clubs have satisfied the Distinguished Club Plan (DCP) requirements for trained officers. TI and the District use those reports and results as a way of determining how well the Toastmasters program is being conducted across the District. The training DCP points are easy to satisfy - a minimum of 4 club officers trained in each of the 2 training periods - 1 at the beginning of our year, and 1 at the mid point. We all know the reason for the organization is to support the individual member. We're here to help each member work through the process and achieve their personal goals of improving their communication and leadership skills. In order for each Club to do that the officers need to be committed to delivering what each member needs to achieve their goal. To do that the officer needs to know what's expected of the person filling the position throughout the year. If the officers don't know what to do, the club won't be able to help each member achieve they're goals. Pretty soon the members start asking why they're hanging around. Membership begins to fall off, and clubs get into trouble and start folding. All that from passing up the opportunity to receive the training necessary to ensure the club can support the member properly. For those clubs that took advantage of the opportunity and will be receiving DCP credit - I congratulate you. For those clubs that didn't make it this year, my challenge is to do next year. Members - pester your officers into attending if that's what it takes. Make sure you get fair value for the dues you pay.

On a high note, 14 of us had our names posted on the TI website for completing our CTMs in February. People like Victor Ian Park, May-Jo Stevens, Roselea Mancuso, Aria M. Merlo, Theresa Garafalo, John Kostecky, Jennifer Yates, Joe Natri, Col. Wade Ferris, Mike Andrusyszyn, Doug Emerson, Terry Bilancio, Norman Stilwell, and Gordo Penniston all received their CTM in February. (Several of these folk are all ready DTMs and have started through the Toastmaster process again, proving no matter how experienced you are, you can always learn something to improve your communication skills.) Three of us achieved our ATM Bronze accreditation: Bob Gadd, Dennis Gauda and Peter Mateunas; while two of

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us logged in as ATM Silver: Glenn Allen and Jean Doremus. Mark Hess and Dr. Rob Giambrone both completed their Competent Leader requirements and Ilene Benz was acknowledged for Excellence in Leadership. If you see any of these Toastmasters be sure to congratulate them on their accomplishment, they deserve it. These accomplishments prove that District 65 Toastmasters don't let a little thing like snow and cold keep them from working toward and achieving their goals.

To each of them I extend my personal congratulations on achieving their goal, and I challenge them to set their sights on the next goal and begin working toward it. Toastmaster life is a series of learning opportunities separated time outs for goal setting.

Now, as we head into March we move into the Spring Speech Competition Season. Most of your clubs have probably completed their contests, or whatever means you use to select who'll represent you at the Area level contest. The best of the Areas will gather at the Division level contests and vie for the honor of representing the Divisions at the District contest in Cortland on the 12th of April. Even if you're not competing I encourage each of you to go out and support your speakers at each level of competition. We can't have contests unless we can find volunteers to staff the necessary jobs that enable contests to be run. And let's not forget that one of the most important roles is that of "friendly face in the audience." So, get out there and support your speakers.

Have a great spring season, and I look forward to greeting a lot of you in person at the various events coming up throughout the District.

Michael Slyck, ATM-B